ode's error correcting properties are unchanged but offime correlations are minimized. This code-form supplies it least a part of the synchronization power which is supplied by the pilot-tone of the two-channel scheme. In almost all situations of interest, it supplies all that is necessary.

One may generalize from the results of Section 2 to ay that the power is optimally divided when the probability of a word error given correct synchronization is equal to the probability of a synchronization error. Conequently, a one-channel system will be called "optimally self-synchronizable" if its synchronization error probabilty after reception of β^2/k words is at most equal to the synchronized word error probability. That this condition is satisfied for most situations of interest may be inferred from Table 1, extracted from Tables 6.2 and 6.3 of Ref. (10). The table is for orthogonal codes with word error probability = 10^{-3} . $(\beta^2/k)_{\min}$ is the minimum value of that parameter for which the synchronization error probability $\leq 10^{-3}$. $E\left\{(eta^2/k)_{\min}\right\}$ is the expected value assuming all code vectors are equally likely, whereas $\max \{(\beta^2/k)_{\min}\}$ is an absolute upper-bound.

Table 1. Minimum values of (β^2/k) for which a commafree code is optimally self-synchronizable

$W = 2^{k}$	$E\left\{\left(\frac{\beta^2}{k}\right)_{\min}\right\}$	$\max \left\{ \left(\frac{\beta^2}{k}\right)_{\min} \right\}$
8	10	
16	8	16
32	5	15
64	3	13
128	~1	4

The timing variations which exist at the word-synchronization level are almost always the low-frequency error, i.e. the "skipping", of phase-locked loop operating at the RF carrier or subcarrier level. The rate of this skipping is usually quite low (Ref. 6), and hence β^2/k is apt to be several orders of magnitude larger than the constraint values of Table 1. Knowing this, it is difficult to envision a design situation in which the synchronizability of the comma-free code would not be adequate.

6. Discussion

In most channels, the constraint upon both the commafree code and the pilot-tone system is the number of words which the receiving equipment is able to use to determine the sync position. Since the comma-free code provides its own sync after receiving only a small number of words, while a pilot tone synchronizable in the same time would require a fairly large fraction of the available power for sync, the comma-free code would seem to be preferable in all cases.

However, the self-synchronization property of the comma-free block codes can only be utilized through sophisticated receiver processing. If transmitter power is cheap, and complex receiving equipment expensive, as in a ground-to-vehicle space telemetry application, a two-channel system is preferable; but if transmitter power is severely limited, and the sophisticated receiver processing no problem, as in a vehicle-to-ground telemetry application, the one-channel self-synchronizing system is far more preferable to one using pilot-tone synchronization.

The conclusion is that for a *Voyager*-class telemetry system, self-synchronizing codes provide the best synchronization method.

The analysis has assumed that bit timing is known. Imperfect bit timing causes an identical decrease in the effective signal strength at both the message detector and the maximum-likelihood word-timing detector. If "g" denotes the ratio of the effective signal power to the true signal power (given the degree of bit-timing uncertainty), a first-order correction for bit timing can be obtained by substituting " $g\alpha P$ " for the message signal power and " $g(1-\alpha)P$ " for the maximum-likelihood-detected pilot-signal power in the foregoing analyses. In most cases, this would require only slight modification of the results.

D. A Serial Orthogonal Decoder

R. R. Green

In this article a new approach to the decoding problem for certain block coded communication systems is presented. A simple and efficient decoder is presented.

Assume that a code word is selected from one of the 2^n code words in the dictionary H_n , where H_n is defined by

$$H_n = H_{n-1} \bigotimes H_1$$

and

$$H_1 = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

(\otimes is the symbol for the Kroneck Product). This word is then transmitted over a channel which adds to it white Gaussian noise and is then available as a received signal x(t). If we let τ be the time required to transmit each symbol of the code word, then the time required to transmit the whole word is $T = 2^n \tau$. It has been shown (Ref. 11) that to do optimal decoding we want to find k such that

$$1 \leq k \leq 2^n \text{ and } c_k = \max_{j=1, \dots, 2^n} \{c_j\}$$

where

$$c_i = \int_0^T x(t)h_i(t)dt$$

and where $h_i(t)$ is one of the 2^n possible code words (or one of the 2^n rows of H_n).

Since $h_i(t) = \pm 1$ for all t we have

$$c_i = \sum_{j=1}^{2^n} x_j h_{ij}$$

where

$$x_j = \int_{(j-1)\tau}^{j\tau} x(t)dt$$
 and h_{ij} is the j th bit of $h_i(t)$. So:
$$c_k = \max_{j=1, \dots, 2^n} \left\{ c_j \right\}$$

$$= \max_{j=1, \dots, 2^n} \left\{ (H_n x)_j \right\}$$

$$= \max_{j=1, \dots, 2^n} \left\{ y_j \right\}$$

where

$$y = H_n x$$
.

If we assume that the components of the vector x are available sequentially as 2^n q bit serial binary words, we would like to find a machine which would perform the operation H_nx . However, as this operation requires 2^{n+1} additions or subtractions, it is rather inefficient and difficult to mechanize.

Instead, a more efficient and more easily mechanized procedure is as follows.

Define:

1.
$$P_{1} = I_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$P_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \quad \text{and inductively;}$$

$$P_{n+1} = (I_1 \bigotimes P_n) (P_2 \bigotimes I_{n-1}) \qquad n \ge 1$$

2.
$$R_1 = H_1$$
 and inductively; $R_{n+1} = (P_2 \otimes I_{n-1}) (I_1 \otimes R_n)$ $n \ge 1$

Note that P_n is a $2^n \times 2^n$ permutation matrix; therefore, $P_n^{-1} = P_n^T$.

Similarly P_n^k for any $k \ge 1$ must be a $2^n \times 2^n$ permutation matrix, therefore

$$(P_n^k)^{-1} = (P_n^k)^T$$
$$= (P_n^T)^k$$
$$= (P_n^{-1})^k$$

Also, the matrix R_n has been described by Koerner in SPS 37-17, Vol. IV, page 72.

Lemma 1:

$$P_n = (I_k \otimes P_{n-k}) (P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}) \qquad ext{for } n-1 \ge k \ge 0$$

Proof by induction: Trivial for n arbitrary k=0. True by definition for k=1.

Assume true for all $n \ge k' + 1$ where $k \ge k' \ge 0$, prove for k + 1 for all $n \ge (k + 1) + 1 = k + 2$

$$\begin{split} P_{n} &= \left(I_{k} \otimes P_{n-k}\right) \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \\ &= \left[I_{k} \otimes \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right)\right] \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \\ &= \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{k} \otimes P_{2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \\ &= \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left[\left(I_{k} \otimes P_{2}\right) \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{1}\right) \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right] \\ &= \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k+2}\right) \end{split}$$

Lemma 2:

$$P_{n+1}(I_1 \bigotimes P_n^T) = (P_n^T \bigotimes I_1)P_{n+1} \qquad n \geq 1$$

Proof by induction: Trivial for n = 1. For n = 2 see Fig. 8. Assume true for n = k, prove for n = k + 1

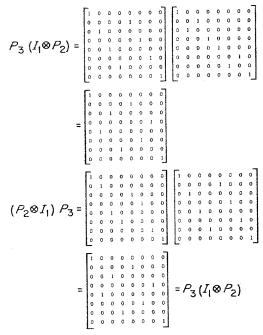


Fig. 8. Lemma 2 - n = 1

$$P_{k+2}(I_{1} \otimes P_{k+1}^{T}) = (I_{k} \otimes P_{2}) (P_{k+1} \otimes I_{1}) (I_{1} \otimes P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{1}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2})$$

$$= (I_{k} \otimes P_{2}) [P_{k+1} (I_{1} \otimes P_{k}^{T}) \otimes I_{1}] (I_{k} \otimes P_{2})$$

$$= (I_{k} \otimes P_{2}) [(P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{1}) P_{k+1} \otimes I_{1}] (I_{k} \otimes P_{2})$$

$$= (I_{k} \otimes P_{2}) (P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{2}) (P_{k+1} \otimes I_{1}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2})$$

$$= (P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{2}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2}) (P_{k+1} \otimes I_{1}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2})$$

$$= (P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{2}) (I_{k-1} \otimes P_{3}) (P_{k} \otimes I_{2}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2})$$

$$= (P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{2}) (I_{k-1} \otimes P_{3}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2}) (P_{k} \otimes I_{2})$$

$$= (P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{2}) [I_{k-1} \otimes P_{3} (I_{1} \otimes P_{2})] (P_{k} \otimes I_{2})$$

$$= (P_{k}^{T} \otimes I_{2}) (I_{k-1} \otimes P_{2} \otimes I_{1}) (I_{k-1} \otimes P_{3}) (P_{k} \otimes I_{2})$$

$$= (P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{1}) P_{k+2}$$

Theorem 1: $P_n^k = (I_1 \otimes P_{n-1}^k) (P_{k+1}^T \otimes I_{n-k-1})$ for $n-1 \geq k \geq 1$

Proof by induction: True by definition for k=1. Assume true for k prove for k+1 for $n\geq k+2$:

$$\begin{split} P_{n}^{k+1} &= P_{n}^{k} \, P_{n} = \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}^{k}\right) \left(P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \\ &= \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}^{k}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \\ &= \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}^{k}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left[\left(P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{1}\right) P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right] \\ &= \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}^{k}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes P_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \\ &= \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}^{k}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}\right) \left(P_{2} \otimes I_{n-2}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \\ &= \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{n-1}^{k}\right) \left(P_{k+2}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \end{split}$$

Corollary: $P_n^n = I_n$

Proof by induction: $P_1^1 = I_1$. Assume true for n prove for n + 1:

$$P_{n+1}^{n+1} = P_{n+1}^n P_{n+1} = (I_1 \otimes P_n^n) (P_{n+1}^T \otimes I_0) P_{n+1} = I_{n+1} P_{n+1}^T P_{n+1}$$

$$= I_{n+1}$$

Note that $P_u^n = I_n$ implies $P_n^{n-1} = P_n^{-1} = P_n^T$.

Lemma 3:
$$R_n = (P_{k+1}^T \otimes I_{n-k-1}) (I_k \otimes R_{n-k})$$
 for $n-1 \ge k \ge 0$

Proof by induction: Trivial for k=0, true by definition for k=1. Assume true for all $n \ge k'+1$ where $k \ge k' \ge 0$, prove for k+1 for all $n \ge k+2$:

$$R_{n} = (P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-1}) (I_{k} \otimes R_{n-k})$$

$$= (P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-1}) (I_{k} \otimes P_{2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}) (I_{k+1} \otimes R_{n-k-1})$$

$$= (P_{k+2}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}) (I_{k+1} \otimes R_{n-k-1})$$

Lemma 4: $P_{n+1}(R_1 \otimes I_n) = (I_n \otimes R_1) P_{n+1}$ for $n \ge 1$

Proof by induction:

$$\text{for } n = 1, P_2\left(R_1 \otimes I_1\right) = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 - 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 - 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 - 1 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 - 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 - 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} = (I_1 \otimes R_1) P_2$$

Assume true for n, prove for n + 1:

$$P_{n+2} (R_1 \otimes I_{n+1}) = (I_n \otimes P_2) (P_{n+1} \otimes I_1) (R_1 \otimes I_{n+1})$$

$$= (I_n \otimes P_2) (I_n \otimes R_1 \otimes I_1) (P_{n+1} \otimes I_1)$$

$$= (I_{n+1} \otimes R_1) (I_n \otimes P_2) (P_{n+1} \otimes I_1)$$

$$= (I_{n+1} \otimes R_1) P_{n+2}$$

Theorem 2: $\mathbb{R}_n^k = (P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}) (I_1 \otimes R_{n-1}^k)$ for $n-1 \geq k \geq 1$

Proof by induction: True by definition for k=1. Assume true for k, prove for k+1 for $n\geq k+2$:

$$\begin{split} R_{n}^{k+1} &= R_{n} \, R_{n}^{k} = \left(P_{k+2}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes R_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-1}^{k}\right) \\ &= \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(P_{k+2}^{k} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes R_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-1}^{k}\right) \\ &= \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \left(P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{k+1} \otimes R_{n-k-1}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-k-1}^{k}\right) \\ &= \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left[I_{1} \otimes \left(P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(I_{k} \otimes R_{n-k-1}\right)\right] \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-1}^{k}\right) \\ &= \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-1}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-1}^{k}\right) \\ &= \left(P_{k+2} \otimes I_{n-k-2}\right) \left(I_{1} \otimes R_{n-1}^{k+1}\right) \end{split}$$

Corollary: $R_n^n = H_n$

Proof by induction: $R_1^1 = H_1$. Assume true for n, prove for n + 1:

$$R_{n+1}^{n+1} = R_{n+1} R_{n+1}^{n} = R_{n+1} P_{n+1} (I_{1} \otimes R_{n}^{n})$$

$$= P_{n+1}^{T} (I_{n} \otimes R_{1}) P_{n+1} (I_{1} \otimes H_{n})$$

$$= P_{n+1}^{T} P_{n+1} (H_{1} \otimes I_{n}) (I_{1} \otimes H_{n})$$

$$= H_{n+1}$$

Theorem 3: $P_n^k R_n^k = I_{n-k} \otimes H_k$ for $n \geq k \geq 1$

Proof by induction: $P_1^1 R_1^1 = I_1 H_1 = H_1$. Assume true for $P_n^k R_n^k$, prove for $P_{n+1}^k R_{n+1}^k$:

$$P_{n+1}^{k} R_{n+1}^{k} = (I_{1} \otimes P_{n}^{k}) (P_{k+1}^{T} \otimes I_{n-k}) (P_{k+1} \otimes I_{n-k}) (I_{1} \otimes R_{n}^{k})$$

$$= I_{1} \otimes P_{n}^{k} R_{n}^{k} = I_{1} \otimes I_{n-k} \otimes H_{k} = I_{n+1-k} \otimes H_{k}$$

and prove for $P_{n+1}^{k+1} R_{n+1}^{k+1}$:

$$\begin{split} P_{n+1}^{k+1} \ R_{n+1}^{k+1} &= P_{n+1} \left(I_{n+1-k} \otimes H_k \right) R_{n+1} = P_{n+1} \left(I_{n+1-k} \otimes H_k \right) P_{n+1}^T \left(I_n \otimes R_1 \right) \\ &= \left(I_{n-k} \otimes P_{k+1} \right) \left(P_{n-k+1} \otimes I_k \right) \left(I_{n+1-k} \otimes H_k \right) \left(P_{n+1-k}^T \otimes I_k \right) \left(I_{n-k} \otimes P_{k+1}^T \left(I_n \otimes R_1 \right) \right) \\ &= \left[I_{n-k} \otimes P_{k+1} (I_1 \otimes H_k) P_{k+1}^T \right] \left(I_n \otimes R_1 \right) \\ &= I_{n-k} \otimes P_{k+1} (I_1 \otimes H_k) P_{k+1}^T \left(I_k \otimes R_1 \right) \\ &= I_{n-k} \otimes P_{k+1} (P_{k+1}^k R_{k+1}^k) R_{k+1} \\ &= I_{n-k} \otimes P_{k+1}^{k+1} R_{k+1}^{k+1} = I_{n-k} \otimes H_{k+1} \end{split}$$

Thus we see that if we can build a machine which consists of n stages, the ith one of which, $1 \le i \le n$, performs the operation $P_n^i R_n(P_n^{i-1})^T x$, cascading these n stages would give the desired operation of

$$y = P_n^n R_n (P_n^{n-1})^T P_n^{n-1} R_n (P_n^{n-2})^T \cdots P_n^2 R_n P_n P_n^T R_n P_n^0 x$$

= $P_n^n R_n^n x = R_n^n x = H_n x$

For an example of the second stage operation for a length 8 code, see Fig. 9. One possible mechanization of a machine to accomplish the job of the *i*th stage is shown in Fig. 10, where w_{i-1} is the output of the *i*th stage of a binary counter which is pulsed every word time (τ) . Thus w_{i-1} changes states every 2^{i-1} word times, and w_{i-1} is time to go true as the first component of P_n^{i-1} R_n^{i-1} x appears at the *i*th stage.

Since we add 2^n binary numbers of q bits each, the digital word length must be $m \ge q + n$. Since symbols are received at the rate of $1/\tau$ per second, the decoder must operate at $s = m/\tau$ bits per second. If we take both m and s to be fixed, the data rate which the decoder can handle for an orthogonal code of length 2^n is $r = (ns)/(m 2^n)$. For example, letting n = q = 7, $s = 10^\tau$ we have r > 35,000 data bits per second.

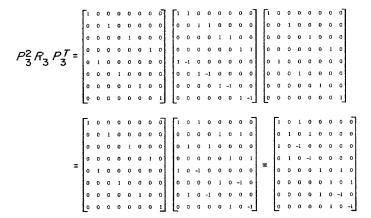


Fig. 9. Second stage for 8/3 Code

This decoder has several advantages. Since every component of y involves all of the 2^n components of x, any decoder must have at least $2^n - 1$ words of memory. This decoder involves

$$\sum_{i=1}^{n} 2^{i-1} = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} 2^{i} = 2^{n} - 1$$

words of memory. As is shown in Theorem 3, a decoder of N stages will decode any code for which $N \geq n \geq 1$, and, further, if it is desired to expand the decoder to the case of N+1, no redesign is needed. To accomplish the expansion, simply add one more decoding stage and one more flip-flop to the w counter. The final advantage is the previously mentioned one of being able to accommodate quite high data rates.

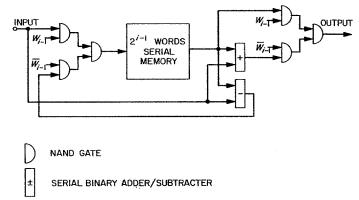


Fig. 10. ith stage of decoder

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